

NSC BRIEFING

26 February 1958

KOREA ~~(short form)~~

- I. Communists moving ahead with diplomatic and propaganda offensive.
- II. A major Communist objective appears to be elimination of US atomic capability in South Korea.
  - A. Moscow issued statement on 20 Feb. urging that Korea be made an atom- and missile-free zone.
- III. Troop withdrawal announcement also appears to be bid for Chinese participation in summit or other international talks.
  - A. Soviet 20 Feb. statement calls for "conference of interested states" to discuss Korea.
  - B. Early this month, a non-party spokesman in Peiping expressed "hope" that Peiping would take part in summit meeting.
  - C. Krishna Menon on 17 Feb. declared withdrawals would remove one of deterrents to seating Peiping in UN.
- IV. North Koreans especially interested in North-South negotiations.
  - A. Pyongyang insists release of 34 passengers aboard hijacked South Korean airliner contingent on direct talks between Seoul and Pyongyang.
- V. Peiping ~~wary~~ lest withdrawal be considered sign of weakness, have warned <sup>that</sup> Chinese will return if hostilities recur.
  - A. Peiping Radio has hinted that Chinese military equipment will be left behind and transferred to North Korean army.